

PLANNING — STAKEHILL WETLANDS — BALDIVIS LANDCARE GROUP

1512. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the minister representing the Minister for Planning:

I refer to the Stakehill Wetland in the City of Rockingham and the Baldivis Landcare Group, and I ask:

- (a) will the Minister please advise of the progress to update the 20-year-old management plan for the Stakehill Wetland site;
- (b) will the Baldivis Landcare group be consulted regarding the future of this wetland;
- (c) will the Minister please advise of the circumstances that have led to the Baldivis Landcare Group being evicted from their premises and having their equipment locked away from them; and
- (d) will the Minister please advise what negotiations with the Baldivis Landcare Group have been, or will be entered into, regarding lease and equipment?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

- (a)–(b) The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is responsible for the Stakehill Wetland management plan. This question should be directed to the Minister for the Environment.
- (c)–(d) The Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) has been attempting to finalise a lease agreement for a new site with the Baldivis Landcare Group (BLG) since 2020. To accommodate BLG, the WAPC organised a site for the temporary storage of the group's possessions until lease negotiations were resolved and undertook pre-lease improvements to the site, including the installation of gates, construction of a crossover, connection of power and removal of asbestos to a cost of around \$25,000.

The group has not provided the information required to finalise the lease agreement, and as three years has lapsed, the temporary site is being decommissioned. In January 2023, the City of Rockingham notified the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage that the use of the Lot is unauthorised under the City's Town Planning Scheme No.2 and section 214 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. Acting on its obligations, the Department issued a letter to BLG in February 2023, requesting that they remove their equipment from the Lot. The group has been notified that they can access the site to remove their equipment. To date, the group has not responded.